Speed Diesel, no demand draft charges are included in the commission. Therefore, the dealers located in outstation/non-depot locations who make payments through Demand Draft are paid Rs. 40/- per Kilo litre and Rs. 16/- per Kilo litre for MS & HSD respectively towards DD charges. The demand draft charges are already taken into consideration while fixing the LPG distributors' commission.

Establishment of Petroleum Training Institutes

2583. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry propose to establish few petroleum training institutes in the country involving oil companies;

(b) if so, objects of opening such institute, location and commission schedule finalised for those including that for Assam;

(c) whether Prime Minister has made a declaration during 1988-89 regarding establishment of an oil Museum at Digboi, Assam on completion of 100 years of India's first oil exploration in 1890;

(d) if so, location and project package finalised and progress made so far towards its establishment; and

(e) if not, reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The object of setting up Training schools is to impart training in specialised skills to meet the requirements of upstream and down-stream industries in oil sector. A Task Force consisting of experts from oil Industry & Educational Consultants India Limited has been constituted to identify the possible locations and other details of the Training Schools.

(c) to (e) Government has decided to set up an Oil Museum under the name and style of K.D. Malaviya National Oil Museum at Guwahati at an estimated project cost of Rs. 8 crores.

Capacity and Utilisation of Refineries in Assam

2584. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total installed capacity and present capacity utilisation of various refineries in Assam;

(b) the reasons for lesser utilisation of capacity, which is national loss, and steps initiated to capture this loss;

(c) the proposed target to make up the crude oil shortfall including the status of completion of crude pipeline from Haldia to Barauni connecting Guwahati Barauni Pipeline; and

(d) the action contemplated for evacuation of the refinery products outside the region including NRL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The total installed capacity of various refineries in Assam at present is 4.0 MMTPA. As per the latest estimates for the current year (1998-99), the capacity utilisation of various refineries in Assam are given as under:—

Refinery	% Capacity Utilisation
AOD-DIGBOI	84.3%
IOC-GUWAHATI	85.0
BRPL-BONGAIGAON	70.3

(b) and (c) Capacity utilisation of Assam Refineries is lower due to lower availability of Assam Crude. The remedial steps taken/ proposed to increase crude availability for Assam Refineries are:—

(i) Augmentation of crude production for North Eastern Region;

(ii) The capacity of Haldia-Barauni crude oil pipeline is being augmented by IOC from 4.2 MMTPA to 7.5 MMTPA and the project is scheduled to be completed by February, 2002.

(iii) A Memorandum of Understanding between Oil India Ltd, and BRPL for transportation of imported crude oil through reverse pumping from Barauni to BRPL was signed on 25.3.98 and between BRPL, and IOC on 3.3.98. The target date for completion of the reverse pumping is end March, 2001.

(d) For evacuation of North-East Refinery products, including NRL, following action has been taken:-

1. North-East Evacuation, including NRL has been worked out by oil companies along with Railways.

2. 1200 tank wagons are under procurement under own-your-wagon scheme by oil companies for evacuation of product from NRL besides tank wagons purchased by Railways.

गुजरात में प्राकृतिक गैस क्षमता

2585. श्री गोपाल सिंह जी॰ सोलंकी: क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या गुजरात राज्य में इस शताब्दी के अंत तक प्राकृतिक गैस क्षमता तथा उसके उत्पादन के संबंध में कोई लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया गया है,

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या इस प्रयोजनार्थ कोई धनराशि निर्धारित की गई है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है तथा यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री संतोष कुमार गंगवार): (क) और (ख) जी, हां। 1999-2000 की अवधि में गुजरात में प्राकृतिक गैस का उत्पादन 3.97 बी सी एम होने का अनुमान है।

(ग) और (घ) ओ एन जी सी ने गुजरात में वर्ष 1998-99 और 1999-2000 में हाइड्रोकार्बन की खोज और उत्पादन के लिए क्रमशः 701 करोड. रुपए और 804 करोड. रुपए का बजट परिव्यय निर्धारित किया है।

उपर्युक्त के अतिरिक्त, गुजरात में वर्ष 1998-99 में छोटे क्षेत्रों में निजी कंपनियों द्वारा किया गया अनुमानित खर्च लगभग 64 करोड़ रुपये है।

Share Prices of Oil Companies

2586. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been contemplating selling off its equity stake in the oil companies in the country to reduce the fiscal deficit;

(b) whether it is a fact that the share prices of these companies have substantially fallen;

(c) if so, the percentage by which the share prices of the oil companies have fallen stating the reasons therefor; and

(d) the extent to which Government is likely to suffer a loss due to sharp dip in this share values of the oil companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The Government has disinvested, during 1998-99, a part of its equity held in Gas Authority of India Limited in the domestic market through book building process to increase liquidity of its shares in the market, with the objective of establishing a realistic bench mark price for future disinvestment in GDR market. In addition to the above, the Government has also permitted Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) to purchase its equity in each other, to foster vertical integration in the hydrocarbon sector among Public Sector Undertakings and to promote business synergy to enhance their global competitiveness.

(b) and (c) The movements in the prices of shares of these companies traded in the Stock Exchange, Mumbai have shown a mixed trend during February-March 1999 as indicated below. Current fluctuation in the market prices of the shares of these companies stems from several reasons, the chief of which is the depressed outlook of global oil industry and its impact on the domestic stock markets.

Company	Percentage change in the share prices	
	February 1999	March 1999 (up to 10.3.1999)
IOC	(-) 14.99	(+) 4.5
ONGC	(-) 10.55	(-) 8.3
GAIL	(-) 16.41	(+) 8.9

Note: 1: The monthly percentage change in the prices of February 1999 has been calculated on the basis of closing month-end prices as on 29th January 1999 (base price) and 26th February, 1999.

2. The monthly percentage change in the prices of March 1999 has been calculated on the basis of closing month-end prices as on 26th February, 1999 (base price) and 10th March 1999.